

Once, a friend of mine, a graduate of Bryn Mawr College, who had studied psychology at Columbia University graduate school, returned to her college for her tenth reunion. I asked her what her impression of her classmates was, after ten years. She said she was surprised to find that all those girls who had not married were longing for a home and children; and all those who had married and had small children to care for, were longing for the freedom and excitement of independent careers.

It was another way of saying that life is always imperfect; that there is never any gain without some loss; and that whatever you choose to do, there is always a fly in the ointment somewhere.

In a recent English Department Assembly hour, I learned that you heard most interesting talks from five women on the various careers that they had chosen. Today I want to talk to you about choosing a career in general and mention, perhaps, a few of those careers for women which were not touched on, at the other meeting, and which might be of particular interest to you as citizens of Turkey. This subject...the choosing of a career...is one that interests all young people and those of you who are nearing the end of your college years, are thinking a good deal, no doubt, about what you wish to do with your lives when you leave. (You have a feeling that the whole world lies before you...you are bewildered by the multiplicity of choices. Some of you, perhaps, have already made up your minds as to what you are going to do. Some of you may drift into a job which will become your career in a few years, without your having planned it; some of you will try one thing and then another and have difficulty in finding your niche; and some will be successful from the very beginning.)

I wonder if you realize how fortunate we all are to be able, as women, to enjoy so large a range of choices, in planning our lives. Such a very few years ago, the doors that are now open, were shut. Professional women were frowned upon and sometimes ridiculed as short a time as 50 or 60 years ago. If you read, for instance, of the early struggles of women in England, who wanted to become doctors in the middle nineteenth century, you will learn how many prejudices there were to overcome. Women's colleges are really of fairly recent date. At Oxford and Cambridge, you can see many lovely ancient colleges for men, founded hundreds of years ago, but the earliest women's colleges were built as late as the middle 18 hundreds, and it was only very recently that degrees were granted to women, even when they

had passed the examinations set by the University for men.

most colleges for women in America, also date their beginning in the middle
 In looking over some old books, some days since, I came across ^{of the} a quaint volume published in 1855 (less than a hundred years ^{last century} ago) with a dedication that is practically an apology. The book was evidently written to prove that women have ideas after all. It is called:

Woman's Record or Sketches of Distinguished Women
 from
 The Creation to A.D. 1854
 arranged
 in Four Eras
 With Selections from Female Writers of
 Every Age
 by
 Sarah Josepha Hale
 Harper Bros. 1855

And the dedication reads:

Inscribed
 to the
 Men of America
 Who Show by their laws and customs respecting women
 Ideas more just and feelings more noble than were ever evinced
 by men of any other nation
 May
 Woman's Record
 meet
 The Approval of the Sons
 of our
 Great Republic
 The World then will know the Daughters are Worthy of Honour.

Can you imagine any book being published today with so humble a dedication? It is taken for granted that the daughters are worthy of honour. And it is also taken for granted that women can have careers and choose them as freely as men. No explanation or apology ~~are~~ is needed.

Those people in the world who know early what they want to do are the fortunate ones...but they are in the minority. The little girl who is very curious about medicine and taking care of the sick, who is not afraid of the sight of blood or of hard work, who likes to use her hands and longs to help anyone in distress, will have no difficulty in choosing the career of a doctor. The other young girl, who always thinks in terms of color, paint or pencil and wants to draw everything she sees, will know she

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cannot be happy unless she can exercise this talent. Still another girl, who loves to manage people, to organize and to make plans for others to follow, must seek an administrative position, *fulfill her personality.*

But most of us have to think very hard and debate with ourselves before we can settle on the kind of job and the kind of training we want most.

Now it seems to me that in choosing a career, two things are essential. First, you should find out as much as you can, from people who have taken up a special kind of work, what their lives are like...you can observe them for yourselves, you can ask them questions and seek their advice, and you can read inspiring accounts of women who have had remarkable careers. Second, and more important, is the fact that you must know yourself. You must be acquainted with your likes and dislikes, with your habits and your temperament, before you choose a profession intelligently. If you hate to see too many people, if much talk bores you, if you prefer a good deal of solitude, don't become a social worker, when it is necessary constantly to meet and talk to people, to adjust yourself to others' personalities, and to sacrifice, to a large extent, your privacy and time for meditation. If you are impatient of restrictions and do not like to fall into a routine, you must not choose an exacting career such as that of a journalist or a teacher. If you enjoy following out someone else's ideas, being shown what you should do, do not choose a profession which calls for initiative and new ideas.

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All these factors should have a place in helping you to make a choice. But sometimes you are not completely free to choose. Perhaps the training for the profession you desire may be too long or too expensive or against the wishes of your family. In this case, you will have to make a second choice, for often compromise is necessary in life. But a knowledge of yourself, as you surely must see, is essential, for without the salt of your personal enthusiasm and interest, any career will be a failure.

Let us consider now some of the careers that are open to women in this country where the need is great and opportunities many. I would put near the top of the list, for girls with a practical bent, the profession of nursing. You heard a good deal about this career in the meeting that I mentioned. One of the greatest satisfactions in life comes from being needed. There is no question, as Bayan Seden told you, that Turkey needs nurses and surely there is no nobler profession. But again you must have a tremendous interest in the work,

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must not be afraid of getting very tired, of seeing the distressing ills of mankind, of being tied to exacting hours and of following out the orders of others.

I cannot resist the temptation, in connection with nursing, of mentioning the name of a great Englishwoman, who founded the profession of nursing in England, who elevated it from the menial work of a kind of upper servant, to the rank of an honorable calling for educated women. I am sure you all have heard the name of Florence Nightingale. She had been interested for years in nursing and had studied it where she could, in Germany, and other places on the continent of Europe and in London, but her great opportunity came when she was sent here to this city during the Crimean war in 1854. The Selimye Barracks in Üsküdar was a hospital for wounded British soldiers. The English doctors and their uneducated helpers were hopelessly incompetent, and many soldiers died, not only of neglected wounds but of disease. Florence Nightingale reformed the whole place, but with the greatest difficulty. The doctors were jealous of her and put every obstacle in her way. Fortunately she had powerful friends in the government in England, a good deal of money to spend, and an indomitable will. Otherwise she never would have succeeded. The story of her triumph, too long to tell, is fascinating to read. When she returned to England money was presented to her as a reward by grateful people. She said she would not accept it, unless she could use it to found a hospital. Thus was founded St. Thomas' Hospital in London, which began as a training school for nurses. She kept her cherished career all her long life, for she lived till 1910. This is what she once said:

"Nursing is an art; and if it is to be made an art requires as much exclusive a devotion as any painter's or sculptor's work; for what is the having to do with dead canvas and cold marble compared with having to do with the living body? Nursing is one of the fine arts; I had almost said the finest of the fine arts."

I never pass Selimye Barracks without thinking of Florence Nightingale. She lived in one of the four great towers and wrote many interesting letters about her work from her Tower Room.

The professions of doctor and lawyer are both alluring, though success in these lines is more difficult to attain, not only because the training is long and arduous, but because there is already heavy competition with men. Still we have several graduates of this college who have become successful doctors. This was a profession dear to the heart of Dr. Patrick, though I could never imagine her taking it up herself.

Many young women in Turkey become secretaries in offices and other institutions. Such jobs can be dull, but on the other hand

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they can become very important. A clever private secretary to an important official, college president or bank manager can make herself indispensable and she can have a share in interesting developments, in business or education. I have known secretaries who became, within the years, the power behind the throne and a real factor in the success of many an enterprise.

I know the career of journalist is very attractive to adventurous spirits, and I gather there are some openings for women in newspaper work here. Personally I would want to be very sure of my abilities to undertake journalism. I do not know if this profession is as strenuous in Turkey as it is, say, in America, but I do know that in the west there are few careers that demand more grit, good health and constant adjustment. If you are a journalist you must be ready to go where you are sent, to write about events, which may interest you and which may not. You cannot say you have a headache or you must go to a party, or you sat up too late last night and can think of nothing to say! No, the paper is waiting for your copy and produce it, you must. Journalists have a way of wearing themselves out very early. However, it may be that you are only attracted by the difficulties, that you feel you have a great deal to say to people through the printed page.. in which case that should be the career for you.

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I am reminded here of an American woman journalist who is the very peak of the profession. She is Anne O'Hare McCormick of the New York Times. She started her career as a reporter, under the editorship of a remarkable man, John Finley. Gradually she worked her way up in the newspaper world and became a foreign correspondent. Now a woman between fifty and sixty, she writes the most masterly editorials on foreign affairs in the New York Times. In fact there are many people, myself among them, who believe that her column, appearing every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday is the very best that the N.Y. Times has to offer...in other words, that she writes better editorials than any men on the Times staff.

In America and some European countries the profession of the social worker has been very successfully followed by women. In this country such a profession is still in its infancy but that does not mean that it should not be studied and developed. Someone has always got to be the pioneer! At the American Service Center in Stambul there has been a short training course for girls who are willing to work in factories, looking after small children of the factory workers, who have nowhere to go but the play rooms or play ground of the factory, while their mothers work. This can be developed into a wonderful kind of work, for children can be taught all kinds of helpful things, ...how to take care of themselves and each other, how to work and play together, how to learn

the rudiments of the difficult job of living in this complicated world. ~~Witwexmswtwxxx~~ A very interesting experiment has recently been started by some social-minded Turkish women for poor children in an unattractive quarter of the city. It is a small pioneer settlement house. It seems to me that a social worker, ~~with~~ with tiny children or older underprivileged youth, has a golden chance to help her country, and to gain for herself the greatest satisfaction.

I wonder if you have ever heard of an American social worker called Jane Addams. She was a strong-minded, though frail young woman of some means with a passion for social reform. She thought at first that she wanted to be a doctor and she went to study in 1882 at the University of Pennsylvania. But her health broke down and she had to abandon this career. She went on a trip to Europe to regain her health. While she was in England, she visited a settlement house in a very poor part of London called Whitechapel. The Name of the settlement house was Toynbee Hall. (Here let me pause a minute to explain that Toynbee Hall was named for the uncle of the Professor Toynbee, the author of the Study of History, who has recently lectured at the two principal universities of Turkey. This uncle, whose name was also Arnold Toynbee, had been a brilliant Oxford scholar, greatly interested in the lives of the poor and full of zeal for their betterment. He died very young, before he was 35. Some of his friends, who wished to continue his work of bringing interest and sympathy into the lives of the underprivileged, founded a settlement house, which they named Toynbee Hall in memory of Arnold Toynbee.) Now to return to Jane Addams. She was so fired by the good work she saw in Toynbee Hall that she wanted to found a similar house in her own city of Chicago. In a very poor part of the city, she was able to buy a house which once belonged to wealthy people called Hull. She called her settlement, Hull House and this name is now known in social history all over the world. ^{She tried there herself.} Here there were rooms for meetings, a library, lectures and games, officials to consult about various troubles, and about difficulties in finding jobs. Jane Addams was as well a great worker for world peace. One year, she received the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of the work she had done. She ~~lived~~ died in 1935 but her good work at Hull House still goes on.

In the case of social work, it is more than ever important that you should know your own temperament. In many ways the work is discouraging, so that you must be a person with deep convictions about the course you are pursuing, and ^{with} patience in the face of difficulties. You must like children and people, you must be socially inclined and you must have a certain enthusiasm for reform and education. You must be an extrovert not someone who longs to get back to her book or her studies!

Which brings me to the profession of teacher. Now this career, being my own, is one upon which I could discourse at length. Here again I can say with truth that good teachers are needed in Turkey, as they are in every country. Here, where public education has made such tremendous strides in a comparatively short time, the need for teachers is a crying one. And women are the natural teachers of mankind: Look at the common expressions in our language like, "I learned that at my mother's knee," that language is "my mother tongue." Mothers are the first teachers and there are few of us who cannot remember many things our mothers taught us. Now, just being a woman does not mean that you are material out of which a good teacher can be made. The best teachers are born and not made, though a very great deal can be done to develop and improve them. There will never be enough born teachers to go round, and it is very important that many others should be trained in the great task of teaching the young. So often the ordinary person thinks that anyone can teach. What a mistake that is! In the early history of working women, how many unhappy girls had to teach when they hated it and were completely unqualified for that career (though they might have made excellent reporters or nurses or secretaries) *if the way had been open*)

Some of the great attractions of the life of a teacher, it seems to me, is that she is kept in touch with youth, that she can renew her spirit by watching the growth of young minds, she can see the spark she gives them kindle into flame. This does not mean that the teaching profession is easy. Far from it. There are many low, dark ^{hours} moments when the teacher feels baffled and disappointed, tired and dispirited and she wonders if she is doing any good at all. But every now and then comes a moment (as in all professions followed with enthusiasm) when one or two students seem to repay her a hundredfold by brilliance and understanding and then she has her reward... and there is no greater. I would like to see more girls go into teaching in Turkey with enthusiasm. I would like to see more normal schools where teachers are trained well for their difficult calling.

(the very interesting play, now playing in town, called Paydos is a wonderful illustration of a profession entered for pure love of the work. We see in this play how much a person suffers who is deprived of the career to which he feels himself born.)

There are other professions for women which have been developed in America, for instance, that are somewhat new, such as the management of departments in stores, such as buyers for large shops and interior decorators. Another career is that of a doctor's assistant. In America there are courses of nine months or a year that can be taken by girls, who do not wish

to become real nurses , but who are interested in medicine and would like to work in a doctor's office. They learn medical terms, and are able to take notes for the doctor. They answer telephones, receive patients, make out health histories, know typing and stenography and filing and can do simple laboratory tests. Often they keep the books, make out the doctor's bills and arrange hospital appointments for various patients. There are other careers more nearly allied to pure science in which women can do chemical analysis in Hospitals, make cultures and take part in research of great value to the medical profession . The name of Madame Curie leaps at once to the mind. Women are often well qualified for this work, because of their patience and their interest in detail.

Have you ever thought of the humbler skills, not real careers, such as that of being a very good cook? A wise teacher of mine, when I was a student at this college, once said to me, " If a woman is a really good cook, she can always find a job!" Empires may fall, schools may close, newspapers may be suppressed, but people will always have to eat and a good cook will always be sought after! That is not a career I speak of in the same breath as the others I have mentioned, but I am reminded of another remark that this same teacher made to me when I was going away to study....my first venture into the world after my years at Üsküdar. She said, " Wherever you are, especially when you go newly to some place, it is well to have learned how to do some one thing better than anyone else....even if it is as small a thing as cooking a meal, playing a game of tennis, reciting a poem, or dusting a room. Whatever you do, decide to do it, just a little better than anyone else." This is very good advice and could be followed by all professional women. And if you haven't a real profession, resolve at least to have some special skill.

So far I have been talking as though choosing a career from those I have mentioned were a fairly simple process, when as a matter of fact, most women marry and have children and that is a career in itself! This brings me to that old questiona favorite subject for debate... can a married woman with children have a career in the world as well? It is obvious that the whole process of choosing and training for a career is complicated in the case of women, ~~because~~ because marriage and the bearing of children interferes, in her most vigorous years, with her profession. I think we must all face this fact squarely and admit that it is a definite handicap. A woman will always have to make some kind of choice, at least for a time, between having a home and children and continuing unimpeded with her career. She is definitely under a disadvantage , but not under enough of a disadvantage

I do not make much of the careers of artists, because they have always been open to women that is, women have been writers, singers, musicians, dancers, painters, actresses for hundreds of years. These rather stand in a class apart and must presuppose a very unusual talent. Lately women who are clever artists have had greater opportunities than in the past. They have done outstanding work in England and America in the illustrating of books, particularly of children's books and in the advertising world and as cartoonists. We immediately think of the drawings of Helen E. Hokinson in the magazine The New Yorker, in which she has immortalized the fat, sentimental, middle-aged club woman of America.

The career of architect has also been taken up by women in the west. Here the competition with men is severe. In passing I might say that the Shakespeare Memorial Theater in Stratford-on-Avon was designed by a woman, Miss Elizabeth Scott, in a competition open to all English architects.

to warrant her giving up the idea of a career altogether.

There are certain situations where a professional woman who is married, can keep up her profession, after her children are out of the nursery. If she has capable relatives, such as a young mother or a sister living at home, she can leave her children in their charge. If the need for money in the family is great, she may have to do this, even if she would rather not. Later on, when her children are old enough to take care of themselves, a woman can return to her independent career. Many older women have done this, and many more are doing so every year. Surely this course has much to recommend it. Often a mother, after her children have grown up, ~~with~~ ~~her~~ ~~husband~~ and have left home, feels lost and aimless, with empty hands. If she has a profession, which she can resume, she is indeed fortunate, for her life will be enriched, her days filled with new vigor, and she can explore again a world, from which she has been excluded perhaps for years.

Even if, however, a woman has only a few years before she marries, to enjoy a career, and for some very good reason, never returns to it later in life, I think it very important that she have even so brief an experience of a profession. One reason is that ~~why~~ in no other way can she learn the value of money. Women are the spenders of the world. How can you know about money unless you have learned how to make it as well as how to spend it? You will discover, if ever you are fortunate enough, how long it takes to earn a hundred liras; you probably already know how short a time it takes to spend a hundred liras! To work for money is to know what makes the world go round, to share in the almost universal experience of mankind. Never to earn any money at all seems to me to deprive yourself of a great satisfaction, whether you are a man or a woman, no matter how much you have already.

Finally, I would like to point out the fact that it is easy for women, even those who have enjoyed a college education, to allow their minds to stagnate, in the atmosphere of comfort and small pleasures with which they are sometimes surrounded. To have undergone the discipline of training for a career helps to keep your mind alert. It is important that you do not allow your abilities to ~~deteriorate~~ ~~degenerate~~ deteriorate. A career means that you will continue to grow. It will help you to keep your mind burnished. Do you not prove by coming to college that you are interested in things of the mind, in developing all your talents? So...choose your career, humble or ambitious, and if not a career, then a special skill so that you may gain the satisfaction of doing something well...in a world which so badly needs repair and improvement.

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